

SOP FOR HARVEST EQUIPMENT

SOP stands for standard operating procedures.

SOPs are written instructions on how to perform a task, usually it is part of a quality assurance program and the task is identified as a control point. The written instructions should be complete enough that an employee could read and perform the task. The employee performing the SOP should document when it was performed and sign or initial a form.

The use of SOPs conforms to the adage, “people don’t do what you expect, they do what you inspect.” The increasing emphasis on food safety and security requires increasing levels of accountability by everyone involved in the production, handling, processing, and distribution of food. The practice of implementing SOPs and documentation provides a universally accepted quality system that anyone in the food supply chain can audit.

This bulletin addresses control points in harvesting wheat. The following control points have been identified where SOPs should be in place to minimize the risk for spread of injurious plant pests:

- Follow state and federal plant protection, noxious weed, and seedlaws,
- Clean harvesting equipment,
- Documentation

LEGAL AUTHORITY TO REGULATE COMBINES

The Kansas Noxious Weed Law contains a requirement that all custom harvest equipment

be cleaned prior to its entry into the state to minimize the spread of weed seeds. Nebraska and Kansas have reciprocal agreements with each other regarding the cleaning of combines.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) has identified three options for custom harvesters to utilize to achieve compliance:

1. Enter into a compliance agreement with KDA. This option provides the equipment operator the most flexibility. By signing the agreement, the operator agrees to the cleaning procedures listed in the agreement.

2. Request an inspection in another state prior to entering Kansas. Each state operates a plant pest prevention program, which can perform inspections and provide documents acceptable to another state. The equipment operator would need to contact the appropriate state officials to arrange for an inspection and documentation. This option could delay custom harvesting activities.

3. Request an inspection by KDA after entering the state but prior to the harvest of any fields. With this option the equipment operator will have to call the KDA for an inspection prior to harvesting any Kansas fields. This could delay custom harvesting activities.

Contact KDA Plant Protection at 785-862-2180 for more details on any of these options.

SOP FOR CLEANING HARVESTING EQUIPMENT

Clean all harvesting equipment including combines, headers, tractors, and grain carts as well as all supporting equipment including trucks, grain trailers and equipment trailers. Equipment must be cleaned and free of soil, plant parts, seeds and other physical debris. Clean the following harvest equipment components:

Step 1 – Remove the header.

Step 2 – Open grain hopper doors at the bottom of the combine (or other equipment including the grain cart, grain trailer) and allow all of the remaining wheat to fall out.

Step 3 – Remove all debris from the:

- Feeder house,
- Cylinder/rotor,
- Concave,
- Augers (clean grain, tailings, threshed grain),
- Grain traps (combine, grain cart, grain trailer),
- Tailings return trap,
- Rock trap,
- Sieves,
- Cleaning fan,

- Frame (combine, tractor, grain cart, grain trailer, equipment trailer),
- Tires and tire rims (combine tractor, grain cart),
- Spreaders and choppers,
- Header,
- Final Drives, and
- Radiators and air filters

Steam Cleaning, pressure washing, or the use of forced air may be required for effective removal of seeds, soil, and physical debris from equipment.

Additional Recommendations:

- 1) Clean equipment free of all seeds, litter, and soil before moving from an infested field or farm to a field or farm that is free of noxious weeds.
- 2) Clean equipment free of all seeds, litter, and soil before loading for transportation.
- 3) Equipment should be transported with all traps closed.

Signature of Person Who Cleaned the Combine: _____

Date Performed: _____

Harvesting Equipment Cleaning Checklist

Date: _____

	Check Box for Each Activity Performed					
Machine Number						
Cleaning Method						
Feeder house						
Cylinder/rotor						
Concave						
Clean grain auger						
Tailings auger						
Threshed grain auger						
Other auger						
Grain traps						
Tailing return trap						
Rock trap						
Sieves						
Cleaning fan						
Combine Frame						
Tires and tire rim						
Spreader and chopper						
Header						
Final drive						
Radiator						
Combine Trailer						
Grain cart						
Trucks						
Person Inspecting, Initial						

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